Mohave County Miner.

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The Discovery of the Camp Bird Mine.

The following is taken from the Commencement address by Thomas Walsh before the graduating class of the Colorado School of Mines at Golden. It relates to the discovery of the Camp Bird mine. Along in the eighties, millions of dollars were expended in the development of the silver-lead veins and the erection of mills in the Imogene Basin, nine miles from Ouray, miles of drifts, tunnels and shafts were driven and sunk upon the strong veins that pass through that Basin. Immense hoisting and concentrating plants were installed to handle and treat the ores, all of which proved an entire failure. As time went on, the mills and machinery were dismantled and sold. The mines were shut down; and, when in 1896 I came upon the scene the section was generally condemned as a failure; the country was abandoned, save by one man only, Mr. Andy Richardson, as honest, and loyal a man as ever lived; one of the oldest pioneers of Ouray. He was the first white man to cross the range from Red Mountain, eighteen or twenty years before, to prospect Imogene Basin. After examining the locality, I concluded that by owning all the properties in the Basin, and making a large output, I could make the low grade mines pay handsomely. Following this up, I commenced buying all the prospects and mines that were offered me, and as no one believed it possible to succeed where so much money had been lost, everyone who owned a claim was anxious to dispose of it to me. At the particular time I speak of, I had already acquired a large number of claims. I was offered one away up near the summit of the range, and started one day, in company with Mr. Richardson, to examine it. We rode as far as we could, and climed the rest of the way. The trail ran along the slope and high up the side of a steep mountain. About three-fourths of the way up from where we left our horses, we came to a slide of reddish pyritiferous porphyry. It at once attracted my attention as being a very strong indication of having gold in or near it. We went up, examined the prospect, and as we came down I took samples from the porphyry slide. I asked Andy if gold were ever found in the Basin, and he said, "No, Mr. Walsh, there is no gold in Imogene except the little associated with silver and lead." I said, "Andy, I believe there is gold in Imogene, and I am going to find it." I had the samples of porphyry assayed, and it ran 2$ to the ton in gold. This confirmed my suspicion. Among the claims I owned at the time there was one located at about the same altitude some three hundred feet east from where I sampled the porphyry. I never saw the workings of this claim because a snowslide, that never melted, covered the tunnel to great depth. I suspected this vein passed through or near the porphyry dyke, and that it carried gold values. Some days after I was taken ill and went to Excelsior Springs for treatment. Before leaving I told Andy to drive a tunnel through the snow and have samples for me on my return. Impatient to get back, I left the springs against the doctor's advice and returned to Ouray in two weeks, got on my horse the next morning, and started off for our cabin in the basin. Here Andy gave me two or three sacks of samples saying. "These were the ones you asked me to get." Something within me said "Go and take your own samples. Remember Andy has been in the basin for eighteen years and has never found gold." I threw them aside saying. "Andy I must see and sample that vein for myself." He said, "Oh, Mr. Walsh, you're too sick and weak to go up there today." I said, "No, Andy, I'm going." He saddled the horses, helped me on mine, and we rode as near the tunnel as possible. With a great effort I reached it. Outside I found a dump of very showy ore having zinc, lead and some copper pyrites. I went inside and examined the vein. There I found an eighteen inch streak of the same kind of ore that was on the dump. Between it and the hanging wall there was about three feet of modest looking quartz. It had none of the shining mineral in it, and looked so barren that the average miner would consider it no good; but as I examined it closely I saw little specks and thread-like circles of glistening black mineral through it, which experience told me was gold in a tellurium form. My illness was completely forgotten, and I became so alert in sampling the grayish looking quartz, that Andy grew quite uneasy and asked me not to work so hard. Thinking that I did not see the low grade metalliferous streak he called my attention to it saying that was the pay streak. I said "Never mind, Andy, I always assay everything in a vein." However, I took some samples from this galena zinc streak and got returns from them of 8$ per ton while the samples from the common looking rock ran as high as 3,000$; I came back, looked over the situation and found that the men who did the work, although they were no ordinary prospectors, saved the showy low grade stuff, and threw the modest, but rich ore over the dump from which I afterwards shipped it. This mine has already had a net production of many millions and stands to produce millions more, and it is a strange coincident that the bonanza part of the mine is immediately beneath the spot where I picked up the piece of porphyry on the trail.

"From this experience you can draw not one, but many lessons. It teaches you to look for opportunity in any place. I found my greatest and best up here on the side of a bleak and barren mountain, far above vegetation and on a trail that thousands had in years past walked over, for it was one of the leading trails from Ouray to Telluride. It teaches you not to despise modest looking rock for sparkling, showy ore. It teaches you to have a thorough knowledge of all kinds of mineral bearing ore, and lastly, it teaches you to send no one to do your work, but to go yourself. If I had accepted Andy's samples which were taken from the low grade streak, the great Camp Bird mine might have remained undiscovered for years, hidden and guarded with its covering of perpetual snow.

Valuable Minerals in Western Arizona.

The metallic mineral deposit of Mohave county, Arizona, were known as long ago as the early sixties, when rich gold ore was discovered in what has since been called the Moss mine, about 4 miles northwest of Gold Road, near the old Camp Mohave trail. A decade later the attention of prospectors was attracted to the newly found silver-gold ores in the Cerbat range. The ore veins then opened in the Cerbat and Hualpai mountains were so rich that the mines yielded large profits, although the expense of freight and treatment ran into hundreds of dollars a ton, owing to the fact that the ores had to be packed long distances on burros to Colorado river, thence to be transported by steamer down the Gulf of California and up the coast to San Francisco, from which point they were shipped to England for treatment. This method of marketing the ores was followed until the advent of the railroad in 1882. Up to that time, for lack of transportation facilities and machinery, shafts more than 150 feet deep were few in number, although the production of high-grade ore ran well up into the millions. With the coming of the railroad a new mining era began, and development work below water level was made practicable. During the early years the region was classed as a silver camp, and no allowance was made by the smelters for the gold, lead, or copper contained in the ores, but the decline of silver drove the prospectors back into the gold belt of the country, and later the Gold Road and Vivian mines, to which the San Francisco district owes its present prosperity, were discovered. Within the last few years the mining industry has taken new life. Old and abandoned mines are being unwatered and their dumps tested and cyanided or milled. With deeper and more systematic mining new ore shoots are found, and the once low-grade ore bodies are being utilized by means of the latest improved milling and value-saving apparatus, the producer receiving pay for the saved metals contained in the ores.

A brief account of the Mohave County mineral deposits has just been published by the United States Geological Survey in an advance chapter from Bulletin 340, which forms Part I of Contributions to Economic Geology, 1907. The author of this report, F. C. Schrader, a geologist of the Survey, spent five months of the fall and winter of 1906-7 in the field study of the district, for the purpose of obtaining a general idea of the mineral resources of western Arizona, concerning which relatively little has hitherto been published. The area described by Mr. Schrader is in the central part of Mohave county, and comprises about 7,000 square miles. Its northern limit lies near the Big Bend of the Colorado and the mouth of the Grand Canyon; on the south it extend to Mellen and the southern extremity of the Black Mountains. On the west it is bordered by Nevada and California, from which it is separated by Colorado river, and on the east by the Colorado Plateau and similar highlands extending southward, from which it is separated by the Grand Wash Cliffs and their southern continuations. Kingman, the county seat, is the principal distributing point for nearly all the mining districts of northwestern Arizona and adjacent parts of Nevada.

Mr. Schrader discusses briefly the general character of the metallic deposits of the region, which include gold, silver, lead, copper, zinc, and tungsten, and gives somewhat detailed accounts of the various districts and mines. The principal nonmetallic minerals of the area—building stones, cement rock, travertine, turquoise, and graphite—are also described. The cement rock, which occurs in a deposit of considerable extent west and southwest of Kingman and probably elsewhere, is said to have been proved excellent for cement making. It requires no calcining, and briquets made from it are reported to have higher tensile strength than the Vesuvian products and to stand salt-water tests with excellent results. Turquoise is mined at two localities, the product being shipped in monthly installments to New York, where it is chiefly sold in the rough for manufacture into jewelry.

Standard Oil Wants Coalinga

A Los Angeles dispatch to the Chronicle says: The largest oil deal in American history is pending between the Standard Oil Company and the California Oil Fields (Limited), according to an apparently authentic report, which is unconfirmed, but not denied. The Rockefeller octopus has offered the British corporation 20,000,000$ for its entire holdings, nine sections and fractions of two others, a total of 6720 acres at Coalinga.and the directors are seriously considering the acceptance of the enormous sum, if the information is correct, and there is no reason to doubt it.

Apparently the corporations have been jointly operating the California Oil Fields' property for thirty days to get a basis for a definite monetary proposition, and with most extraordinary secretiveness.

None of the higher Standard officials could be reached to-night and the British owners have no representive here or anywhere except at the wells and in England.

General Manager William Graham of the Standard, who lives in Santa Barbara, is in the Middle West, but his representive stated by long-distance telephone that if such negotiations as reported are pending he has not been informed, but he made no denial, and said he might not know, having no direct personal interest in the Standard Company.

If the report is true, the price per acre is extraordinarily high, being 2900$. However, E. L. Doheny recently paid 2000$ an acre for undeveloped land in that territory, and some of the California Oil Fields property is highly developed. It surrounds the Standard on three sides.

20 Stamps At The Monica In 20 Days.

Within the next twenty days twenty stamps will be in operation in the Monica mill at the Monica mine, the ten additional stamps to be installed having been shipped from Mohave county to the Monica camp yesterday. The foundation and frame work for the stamps are now in place and the stamps will be installed as soon as delivered on the ground. The new slime plant is almost finished. The management expects to have it in running order Monday. The ten stamps in the mill are running steadily, day and night, and the management is satisfied with the results. With the additional ten stamps and the new slime plant in operation, the bullion output will be more than doubled and besides there will be a greater saving in the values in the ores.

The mine is opened to a depth of 1,100 feet. It is tapped by a tunnel 1,000 feet in length at the 1,000 foot level in which a winze has been sunk 100 feet deeper on the ore body, which shows continuity in size and values. From the 1,000 foot level raises have been run connecting the tunnel with the upper workings in which a tonnage of ore is exposed large enough to keep the twenty stamp mill busy a year.

The Monica group of claims is located sixteen miles southeast of Kirkland, the nearest railroad station on the S. F., P. P. The camp is in a well-watered and timbered section of the Weaver mountains.—Journal Miner.

Claims Millions On A Grubstake.

A Seattle dispatch to the Chronicle says: T. W. Johnson has filed an action in the Superior Court asking for an order compelling Tafet Lindeberg, the Pioneer Mining Company, the Alaska Building Company and the Scandinavian-American Bank to render an accounting of Lindeberg's holdings.

The companies are made parties to the action because Lideberg is heavily interested in them. Johnson sets Lindeberg's wealth at 5,000,000$, and in his complaint claims that half of it belongs to him.

The plaintiff recites that Johnson met Lindeberg in Alaska when the latter was a subject of Norway and in charge of a herd of reindeer. He asserts that the plaintiff, P.J. Davenport and Fred Linden made an agreement by which they were to buy provisions and supplies and take up joint mining claims. Lindeberg was also taken in as an equal partner, though not contributing to the stake, because he had no money.

In August 1898, Lindenberg was left in charge of claims the men had located on the Nauckluck river, while the others came to Seattle and shipped to the claims about 200$ worth of supplies. When Johnson returned he found that Lindeberg had deserted the claims, taking all the supplies with him. It was not till five years afterward that Johnson learned that he had gone to Nome and struck it rich.

Great Mining Tunnel Sold Under the Hammer.

The Vidler tunnel, which was projected to penetrate the Rocky Mountains west of Denver a distance of a mile and a half,and all other property of the Transcontinental Mining and Transportation Company, was sold in the United States bankruptcy court last Monday for $53,000, a sum sufficient to pay all debts of the company. The purchaser was George L Nye, trustee for Englishmen interested in the company, who propose to complete the tunnel, which is expected to reach rich ore bearing veins. The company was capitalized at $3,000,000 in 600,000 shares and its stock is said to have sold in London as high as $12 a share. Nearly half a million dollars has been spent in building the tunnel, and to complete the work it is estimated that $350,000 more will be required.—Needles Eye.

The quicksilver mine in Yuma county, Ariz., twelve miles north of the town of Quartzite is in constant operation now, and the reduction plant is also running. It is believed that this property will prove the equal of those at Almaden,California. The new furnace was blown in some time ago, but it took about thirty days to get the walls and plant in shape to gain the mercury from the ore. There are very few profitable cinnibar properties in the United States,and it is hoped this Yuma country deposit will give another. The property was worked years ago by the French as a copper mine. It carries gold, silver, copper, mercury, and the ore must be treated twice to get all values, which range from $2 to $200 per ton,with a general average of $12. Ore is being stoped from the 200 level and an extention of the shaft is forwarding. A new rockbreaker is operated, and from this the ore goes over a grizzly. The ore is said to be found in a true fissure that can be traced for more than three miles, and the ledge is about three feet wide.

In the development and equipment of a big mining and milling plant it frequently happens that some peculiar problems confront the promoters. With the unitiated, the chief feature is an ore supply that will yield a profit. Their discernment does not extend beyond this point, no thought being given to disposition,of the residuum after the value have been extracted from the rock. Still it very often happens that the question of disposing of the tailings is a very serious matter. It is already taking on serious proportions in the Telluride district, Colorado. As an example, the concentration plant of the Boston Consolidated company, whose milling plant is located at Garfield, Utah, produces daily a quantity of tailings which covers to a depth of two feet an area of one acre of ground. It will easily be seen that the disposition of this amount of waste soon becomes a serious matter.—Denver Mines & Mining.

Conclusive evidence that the Peck mine in the Bradshaw mountains, the richest of which startled the civilized world after its discovery in the early 70's is not entirely worked out, is seen in a shipment of four tons of ore, which arrived at the Prescott Sampling Works yesterday, mined from the old workings, abandoned many years ago as entirely worked out.

The ore, with over 1,000 ounces in silver to the ton, was discovered a few weeks ago by a miner in the employ of the Great Peck Mining Company.—Journal Miner.

While grading the site for their new smelter at the mining camp of the Mansfield Copper Co, about 70 miles southwest of Benson, the company was surprised by uncovering the apex of a blind ledge of ore within 100 feet of one of their large operating shafts. Most of the smelter machinery is now on the ground and being installed. The remainder has been shipped from the Denver foundry. They expect to be turning out copper matte in a few weeks.—Benson Press.

Construction work on the E. H. Harriman smelter at Mazatlan is to be started in a few weeks and the contract calls for the smelter to be completed by June 30, 1909. It is understood that about $3,000,000, gold will be invested in the project. The smelter will afford a market for many mining sections in the western part of Mexico, as the railroad which the Harriman interests are building along the west coast will pass through Mazatlan.—Denver Mines & Mining.

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